

## CES Spring/Summer 2009

### February

#### **Event One: Nemours Plantation of the ACE Basin**

**Speaker:** Ernie Wiggers, Manager of Nemours Wildlife Foundation

**Date:** February 24, 2009

**Location:** Nemours Plantation, Gardens Corners

**Time:** 9am to mid-afternoon (bring lunch)

**Capacity:** 20 people

**Description:** Much of the Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto Rivers (ACE) Basin Project Area is composed of plantations which utilize the river systems for cultivation. These plantations are host to abundant wildlife and unique cultural heritage. Join us to tour one of the primary plantations of the ACE Basin, Nemours Plantation. Ernie Wiggers will host the tour as the manager for the Nemours Wildlife Foundation.

### March

#### **Event Two: Native Gardening and Rain Barrel Demonstration**

##### **Speakers**

- Colette Degarady (Conservation Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy)
- David Joyner (Natural Resources Agent, Clemson Extension)
- Rebekah Szivak (SCDNR)

**Date:** March 18<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** DNR Fort Johnson Marine Center, James Island

**Time:** 6:00 to 8:00pm

**Capacity:** Unlimited

**Description:** Are you interested in tips that can help you create and sustain an attractive garden or landscape while protecting the environment and potentially saving on your water bill? If so, join us for an evening of learning about ways you can lower your global footprint in your landscape. Colette Degarady from the S.C. Nature Conservancy will discuss the benefits of

planting native as well as give suggestions for plants that do well in landscaped environments. David Joyner from Clemson University Extension will give the group a demonstration on constructing a rain barrel. Rain barrels are used to collect water from rooftops after rain events; the presentation will give best practices for building your own. Both presentations will supply the audience with resources for additional information.

### **Event Three: Birding in the ACE Basin**

**Speaker:** Pete Laurie (retired SCDNR)

**Date:** March 23

**Location:** Donnelly and Bear Island Wildlife Management Area, ACE Basin

**Time:** 9:00 to 1:00 (bring a lunch)

**Capacity:** 20 people

**Description:** Come explore the ACE Basin! Tour the Donnelly and Bear Island WMA's with an emphasis on birding. Birds will be viewed in a variety of habitats including wetland impoundments, open fields, long leaf pines, and black water cypress swamp. The diversity of habitats makes this area a bird watchers paradise. Our speaker, Pete Laurie; birder, writer, photographer and contributor to SC Wildlife Magazine, is knowledgeable on wildlife management techniques utilized within the area as well as bird life which may be found.

## **May:**

### **Event Four: Huntington Beach State Park: Marine Invertebrates**

**Speaker:** Mike Walker (SC Park Service)

**Date:** May 4, 2009

**Location:** Huntington Beach State Park

**Time:** 10:00 to 1:30 (bring lunch)

**Capacity:** 20 people

**Description:** The northern end of Huntington Beach State Park offers a great diversity of marine habitats, both natural and man-made, in a compact area. Participants will have a chance to get their feet wet and their hands muddy as we explore from the ever-shifting sands of the high-energy outer beach to the crashing waves of the jetty's rocky shore to the calm, protected mud and sand flats of Murrells Inlet. Along the way, we will use

suction samplers, sieve boxes, and other tools to investigate the myriad of sea creatures who call these habitats home. We may encounter sea stars, sea urchins, ghost shrimp, sea anemones, acorn worms, mole crabs, and many other marine invertebrates. Please wear closed-toed, lace-up shoes with good tread that you don't mind getting wet and muddy, and bring heavy-duty work gloves for protection from barnacles and oyster shells. A hat, sunscreen, and drinking water are also recommended. Transportation from the beach to the jetty will be provided. Meet at the Education Center.

### **Event Five: Exploring Lewis Ocean Bay**

**Speaker:** Deanna Ruth (SCDNR)

**Date:** May 5, 2009

**Location:** Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve

**Time:** 9:00 to noon

**Capacity:** 20 people

**Description:** Come explore the plethora of natural wonders that abound at Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve. A Longleaf Pine Ecosystem restoration project is currently in progress, the preserve recently planted 350 acres. Participants will learn about this forest type which once dominated the south and the characteristics that make it a unique ecosystem. We will discuss the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker while in the Longleaf, and efforts taken to assure these birds don't go extinct. The group will also experience Carolina Bays. Lewis Ocean Bay is the highest concentration of Carolina Bays in the state, 23 in all. We hope to find native orchids and carnivorous plants along the way. We will also touch on research regarding dense population of black bears present on the property.

## **Event Six: Birding in the Headwaters of the ACE Basin**

Date: May 18, 2009

Speakers: Jeff Mollenhauer (SC Audubon)

Location: Francis Beidler National Forest

Time: 9:00am to noon

Capacity: 30 people

Description: Take the boardwalk deep into Four Holes Swamp lead by Audubon experts to view resident birds and wildlife. Participants will experience old growth cypress swamp as well as some of the oldest and biggest cypress trees in the south. Some common misconceptions of swampy areas will be addressed as well as benefits these areas have to our lowcountry. Birds that we may encounter include prothonotary warblers, yellow crowned night herons, barred owls, and pileated woodpeckers. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about a new citizens- science project, Project PROTHO, which takes a closer look at the use of forested wetlands by prothonotary warblers.

## **Event Seven: Natural History of the Horseshoe Crab, *Limulus polyphemus* (Horseshoe Crab Survey on Beach at Harbor Island)**

Date: May 26

Speaker: Al Segars (DNR)

Location: Conference room, Harbor Island Resort

Capacity: 10 people

Time: 4:30pm to midnight

Description: Join DNR veterinarian Al Segars and DNR staff in a spawning survey of the fascinating Horseshoe Crab! Join us for an opportunity to learn about the critical role Horseshoe Crabs play in both wildlife populations and human health!

Bring evening meal, drinks. Be prepared to wade in knee deep water. No sandals, need closed toe shoes for wading.

Bring flashlight, bug spray, jacket (cool to cold at night on beach).

Entrance gate at Harbor Island will give directions to conference room.

## **June**

### **Event Eight: History and Natural History of the ACE Basin**

**Speakers:** Al Segars, Katie McMillan, Louie Heyward, and Kim Counts (SCDNR)

**Date:** June 2, 2009

**Location:** McKenzie Field Station at Bennett's Point, ACE Basin

**Time:** 10:00am to 3:00pm

**Capacity:** 30

**Description:** Come explore the ACE Basin aboard the Educational Vessel *Discovery*. The group will travel into the heart of the ACE Basin to pull a trawl net in the estuary. Participating speakers will talk on the animals caught and the roles the estuary plays in the overall health of the ocean. Participants will learn of this highly productive ecosystem we call our own backyard. We will also focus on some of the historical significance of the ACE Basin including events in both the Civil and Revolutionary Wars, as well as the highly prosperous phosphate mining industry.

## **July**

### **Event Nine: Deveau Banks: A Resting and Nesting Place for Shorebirds.**

**Speakers:** Felicia Sanders and Al Segars

**Date:** July 29, 2009

**Location:** Depart from McKenzie Field Station, Bennett's Point

**Time:** 10:00am to 3:00pm

**Capacity:** 30

**Description:** Participants will venture to Deveau Banks in the mouth of the North Edisto River via our Educational Vessel *Discovery*. There, we will witness one of the most important success stories as a result of legislation enacted to help increase nesting activities of important coastal

birds in our area. The group will be awed by the experience of the variety of sea and shorebirds we see throughout the day.